Science Collaborative CIU Meeting #4

December 7, 2011 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Present

City of Homer: Bryan Hawkins (Harbormaster), Jim Hornaday (Mayor, KBRR Community Council), Walt Wrede (City manager)
DNR: Rick Thompson (Regional Land Manager)
KBRR Community Council: Bob Hartley
KBRR Staff: Steve Baird, Angie Doroff, Megan Murphy, Terry Thompson, Coowe Walker
NOAA: Kris Holderied (Kasitsna Bay Lab Manager),
UNH: Kenny Daher (TIDES graduate student intern)
KP Borough: Mako Haggarty (Assembly), Tom Dearlove (Coastal Program)

Absent

City of Homer: Rick Abboud (Planning)
SVT: Michael Opheim
UAF: Jeff Freymueller

AGENDA & NOTES

1. Intros – exercise "Goals of the Science Collaborative in 1-2 sentences"
2. Highlights from Sept 21st meeting: Rick Thompson presentation takeaways
3. Brief Project Updates
4. Discussion on issues / topics that have come up over the year
5. Evaluation of process / meeting
6. Dates for 2012 meetings: Wednesdays – March 21, June 6, September 19th, December 5th (before the KBRR community council mtgs).
7. Join us for holiday breakfast Tuesday, December 13th from 7:30-9:30 am in the IOVC commons.

Captured 1-2 sentences:

- The Science Collaborative project is an effort to share research and data with various organizations, and universities so that there is not too much duplication and redundancy
- To provide coastal decision-makers relevant information on coastal uplift, regional sea level rise and habitat changes related to these processes in the KBay area
- To improve the exchange of information between the science community and decision-makers and to make sure science is included in the decision-making process
- Are we going to wash away or have large amounts of new land from rebound. How should municipalities plan for the near and long term.
- Accurately measure vertical land level change and how that affects coastal habitats that our fish and shellfish depend on (2) Improve use of this information by city, borough and state resource managers

Project Updates:

- Five Continuously Operating Referencing Stations (high-precision GPS units) now collecting data! They are located at the City Public Works, McNeil Canyon Elementary School, the Homer Spit, Coowe's House (nr head of the bay), and Peterson bay
- Successful first year of data collection! Much to process!

Highlights from Rick Thompson's presentation @ Sept 21st meeting:

- highlighted the gap between management needs & science
- reinforced the maze/compartments of legal structure
- inherent conflict w/ maximizing use w/conservation of resources? (use and varying meanings of language)

Discussion: see ppt

Additional users:

- FEMA (identify who in FEMA – likely multiple FEMA folks within different parts of FEMA: flood hazard maps, emergency response) → Walt to provide FEMA contact options
- Coast Guard – dredging engine dept in Juneau → Bryan to follow-up w/ contact
- Port Graham Native Corps
- Port Graham (Pat Norman) and Nanwalek (Nick Tanape?) Native Villages
- Ninilchik Native Corps (contact?)
- City of Seldovia
- Borough Office of Emergency Mngmt (Eric Mohrmann)
- United Fishermen of Alaska- Buck Luketis
- Mariculture / Oyster farmers
- NRCS & cattleman's association (Mark Kinney, Karin Sonnen, Otto Kilcher)
- Vosnesenka (Stan White)
- Community Council members (add them to email updates)
- Elected officials (include them in annual reporting)

Familiarity with/Trust in Scientific Process:

- Ignorance is used to further political ends/viewpts at the expense of depth of understanding
- What is the government for? Being clear on the role/limitations
- Scientists live in a grey world & decision-makers live in a black & white world
- There's a need for better relationships between political and scientific communities so that there can be a framework for understanding the different contexts/worlds
- Data can be interpreted differently depending on the agenda, therefore different conclusions and less trustworthy
- How much $$ is the City going to set aside to dredge the Harbor?
- Setback rule for coastal erosion in Homer?
- Important to know Who to Call or Who is the Expert on certain topic – thus, helps expedite getting the best info available when quick decisions are needing to be made

Mismatches in conducted research & information needs in managements:

So what are some needs?

1. Coastal Erosion rates for Homer
    a. Sediment transport model
    b. Storm frequency & magnitude
    c. Terrestrial water run-off
    d. Best management practices for planning? This also relates to seward floodplain development and flooding issues

Misalignment in the timeframes of data collection and informed decision-making

*Ultimately, scientists can be providing information about the work they're doing while they're doing it – thus, when results become available it's not a big surprise. This also decreases the likelihood of political uproar if the project was a surprise.

Similarly, decision-makers can provide scientists priority data needs

- Some decision-making processes are also longer timeframes – similar to the scientific process – where time is taken to gather information to support decision-making – ex, such as Land-use planning. Many topics considered with these plans so can take some time: best management practices, law, politics, budget, economics, mission, organizational mission, etc

Are there techniques and/or advice for proactively addressing & minimizing political conflict with data delivery?

- Reiterated engagement of stakeholders and users during the process
- Also – resource management objectives need to be stated (Why were rules made? What was the focus for protection? What's the problem?)

Top choice for the One-liner:

"Examining the Influences of Sea & Land Level Changes on Coastal Habitats for Better-Informed Decision-Making"

Keypad Polling Results: see pdf